Minutes from the Evaluation Committee of BioISI Projects 2022

28.04.2022

Agenda

1. Selection of BioISI 2022 projects

Members present

Rui Malhó Coord Painel /TL BioTech
Margarida Amaral (Coord TL BioMED)
Miguel Machuqueiro (Coord TL Comp Biol)
Manuela Pereira (Coord TL BiolChem)
Patricia Faísca (Coord TL BiolPhys)
Simão Luz – (Editor)

1 – Nine applications were received. After evaluating the eligibility criteria, the jury decided to accept all the applications listed below:

#	Project	PI 1	PI 2
1	Blood-brain barrier transposition by VIP VPAC1 selective ligands: opportunities during leakage upon seizure-triggering stimuli.	Diana Cunha Reis	Ines Pankonien
2	Nanocomposite coatings for microbial disease-causing threats mitigation	Elisabete Ribeiro Silva	Ana Carapeto
3	Asymmetric post-translational modifications as a new regulatory mechanism in the function of STAT3 homodimers	Federico Herrera	Vukosava Torres
4	Effect of chestnut Ginkgobilobin-2-like protein on the plant pathogen Phytophthora cinnamomi	Fernando Vaz Dias	Susana Serrazina
5	Investigation on the protective role of nanoparticle sprays on grapes against biotic stress	Florent Weiller	Ana Sofia Rodrigues & Helena Gaspar
6	Mitochondrial network in Multiple Acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase Deficiency: construction of a high-content bioimage analysis workflow	Hugo M. Botelho	Filipa S. Carvalho
7	Explore TWIST1-related EMT networks in Cystic Fibrosis	Ines Pankonien	Vukosava Milic Torres
8	Evaluation of the botanical constituents of honey from Northern Portugal using molecular approaches	Juliana Leal Lopes	Ana Cláudia Escudeiro
9	Biochemical characterization of a serine protease involved in grapevine defense towards biotic stresses	Rita Basílio Santos	Filipa Calisto

2 – After Discussion of the criteria to be considered in the evaluation of BioISI 2022 projects, the following criteria were approved:
- Valuing innovative project ideas with the possibility of achieving outputs in the short-medium term;
- To value projects whose interdisciplinary component is very explicit and justified, encouraging collaboration between groups and inter-thematic lines;
- To value projects coordinated by young IPs as long as they are aligned with their work plans and that enhance curricular opportunities;
- To value projects aligned with the strategic lines of BioISI.

3 – Given the above mentioned in point 2, the following projects were not proposed for funding:

1- Blood-brain barrier transposition by VIP VPAC1 selective ligands: opportunities during leakage upon seizure-triggering stimuli. - Interesting topic but considered of low feasibility; something far from the strategic alignment of the center. Clearly within TL BioMed but the link to TL CompBiol is unclear and not well justified.

4 - Effect of chestnut Ginkgobilobin-2-like protein on the plant pathogen – Interesting topic and moderately framed in the strategic alignment of the center, but too focused only on a group and on a line of research already well consolidated in the laboratory, and with low interdisciplinarity.

5 - Investigation on the protective role of nanoparticle sprays on grapes against biotic stress- Interesting topic and project clearly presented; well framed in the strategic alignment of the center but too focused on just one group and with a line of research already well established in the laboratory; The effort of young researchers was recognized, so future applications with a greater consolidation of interdisciplinarity are advised.

8 - Evaluation of the botanical constituents of honey from Northern Portugal using molecular approaches – Interesting topic and moderately framed in the strategic alignment of the center, but very focused on a line of research that is already well consolidated at the pole. The innovation and interdisciplinarity component (framework in multiple BioISI TLs) was not clear in the application.

4 – The following projects were approved for funding:

2 - Nanocomposite coatings for microbial disease-causing threats mitigation - Project well integrated into the strategic alignment of the centre, clearly correlating two different thematic lines, and promoting translational research. This is an evolution of last year's project with an important contribution from co-PI.

3 - Asymmetric post-translational modifications as a new regulatory mechanism in the function of STAT3 homodimers – Project well integrated into the strategic alignment of the center, it has a strong interdisciplinary component (three thematic lines) and well justified; very well written application and ambitious scientific project with strong potential to generate results for an application for other funding.

6 - Mitochondrial network in Multiple Acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase Deficiency: construction of a high-content bioimage analysis workflow – Project well integrated into the strategic alignment of the center, with a well-justified interdisciplinary component; presents well-described and very realistic objectives; recognized originality although within a consolidated research topic in the PI host laboratory.

7 - Explore TWIST1-related EMT networks in Cystic Fibrosis – Project well integrated into the strategic alignment of the center, with a well-justified interdisciplinary component; a very interesting and ambitious project with the potential to generate results for future applications for other funding; recognized originality although within the consolidated research topic in the PI's host laboratory.

9 - Biochemical characterization of a serine protease involved in grapevine defense towards biotic stresses - Project well integrated into the strategic alignment of the center, with a well-justified interdisciplinary component; a project with some level of “high-risk/high-gain” but

well presented. Potential for biotechnological innovation and to generate results for applying for other funding.

28 April 2022

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